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Sketch-Book. No 7.

From February 22d 1837 -

To March 15th 1837 -

No 1 Small Pox.

In a letter from my Daughter Adeline,
1837} of the 13th of February, she states that the
small pox is prevalent in Boston; that
a number of cases had occurred in her
neighborhood, and that a Mrs Lord of
Spring street, died of the disease a few
days since. It was supposed that she
had been vaccinated 30 years ago; but
it turns out that this is a mistake.
By the advice of Dr Bigelow, my Daughter's family have all been revaccinated
as a precaution; from which it appears
he is not certain that vaccination is a
certain preventative to the small pox.
or thinks it poſsible that time may
obliterate the effect.
As the proceſs is harmleſs and may
test the genuineneſs of the first proceſs.
I think the practise is advisable; and
it is to be regretted that any should so
far neglect this duty to themselves
as to omit vaccination in one instance
at least. The discovery of Dr Jenner is
an important one, and none but the
most stupid, will neglect it. Turn

Previous to this discovery the small pox was one of the most terrible diseases that afflicted the human race, and a residence in a seaport City was very unsafe with all the precautions that were used. At this time it has almost ceased to alarm. But it is important that the practice of vaccination should be kept up, and that all should go through the operation in season, under the care of a regular and skillful physician. And it is a good practice to insert the fact of vaccination, in the family record, with the name of the physician who performed it — though this is generally omitted. This however, I believe, I have omitted; but if my recollection is correct, all my family have been vaccinated by Dr William S Williams, the father of the present Dr Stephen W. Williams of this town. In the the time of the Revolutionary war, I was inoculated with the small pox and had it very lightly in a pest-house, where I saw it in all its stages and have since been among it.

2 Dr Noah Webster's Opinion of the mode of instruction in the Girard College.

In the month of September last David Mc Clure addressed a letter to Dr Webster, and a pamphlet containing a system of education for the College, requesting his opinion on the same.

In reply Dr Webster generally approves of the plan; but thinks a material defect is a want of a professorship of the English language. The writings, he says, of our most distinguished scholars are often deformed by false orthography and false syntax, and by the misapplication of words.

"If our statesmen, he adds, were accurately acquainted with the language, it is to be presumed they would not use comptroller (a counter of the rolls) when they mean controller, an officer whose business it is to control, or check the ~~the~~ accounts of other officers. If military gentlemen were perfectly versed in English they would not use the word redoubt, ~~an outwork in fortification~~ (a doubting again) when they mean a *redout*, an outworks in fortification. If the clergy were accurately instructed in the meaning of words, we should not hear from the pulpit a *stanza* called a *verse*. If our citizens were well instructed in English, we should not hear such phrases as a *balance* of men or troops in a company remaining after a detachment had been made. If our public men were well instructed in the language, they would not venture to call the privileges of banking and manufacturing companies in this country, *monopolies*; for citizens, well instructed in our language and in the true meaning of words, would consider such a misapplication of terms an indignity offered to their understanding. If English words were correctly understood, we should never hear men talk about the *aristocracy* of the country: since it is not, and by our constitution there *cannot* be any such thing in the U. States

In his Dictionary ~~Dr.~~ D Webster defines *Aristocracy*, a government by nobles, and true it is, no such is known in our constitutions. But suppose we have among us men of great property and talent, who combine their influence and do in fact ~~in~~ ~~[illegible]~~ sway the people in their elections and the enactment of the laws, is there great impropriety in saying these people are an *aristocracy*, even though they are not thus constituted by our Constitutions: And in all countries, whether free or otherwise, there are such men, and by what term can they be more appropriately designated than by the term *aristocracy*? So the term *monopoly* is proper where "the sole power of vending is given to one or more men, to the exclusion of the same power in others; and though this grant from government is unconstitutional, it does not follow that monopolies will not be granted. If granted they are not less monopolies, because they are unconstitutional

Shall we then be deprived of the term, because the constitution gives no power to grant them? So there is no power in the constitution to pass ex-post facto laws; but if ~~granted~~ passed, they are such, though contrary to the Constitution, and by this name they would be known.

With respect to the orthography of words it appears to me to be of little consequence what it is, provided there be a uniform system in our language and all words ~~are~~ clearly defined; and whether they are derived from the Greek, Latin or any other language, is a matter of indifference, so long as they are uniformly spelt and defined. Our linguists may amuse themselves by looking up derivations; but the use of words in a country ought to fix their standard; and this once adopted, no matter what are their derivations.

The multiplication of Dictionaries with such a diversity of orthography as we find in our language, is an embarrassment which ought not to exist. Let us have a *standard* in the English language to which all may appeal: and as Dr Webster has long attended to the to the subject, and published large and numerous works I think it would be wise to adopt his Dictionary as this standard. Whether his orthography and definitions are the best that could be contrived, may be left out of the question. If he has omitted important words let them be supplied; we only insist that there shall be a *uniformity* of orthography as well as of definitions.

In his letter to Mr McClure, Dr Webster expresses his disapprobation of one feature in the system for instruction in the Girard College. As he understands it, the *will* of the founder prohibits instruction in the Christian religion, and precludes clergymen from being trustees, and from having any concern with the education of the pupils. Dr Webster thinks this a quent defect, and says, "that religion is the most important and one of the first things in which all children under a free government ought to be instructed".

The will of the founder, Mr Girard, it is presumed, does not prohibit instruction in the principles of morality or a religion in which all enlightened men agree; but his object was to keep the young mind free to choose his religion, after he is well instructed in other branches of knowledge; — to keep him free to choose his system without being shackled by education. If it should be found that pupils who have been thus instructed, should reject the Christian religion, would it not be an argument against christianity. If science is at war with Christianity, what is the inference we are to draw? Surely, not a favorable one for Christianity.

But the difficulty of introducing religious instruction into our Seminaries of learning, arises from the diversity of systems which prevail in the country. The adherents of each system will be opposed to others differing from their own. Those who believe the doctrine of the Trinity is an essential part of Christianity, will enforce it on their pupils; the unitarian who believe the doctrine is not to be found in the Bible, will instil into the pupil, as an essential, the unity of God, and thus a continual contest will be kept up so long as systems of religion are taught in our seminaries. The design of Mr Girard I suppose must avoid this difficulty.

Dr Webster, in speaking of the Christian religion as the basis of government, says "I do not mean an ecclesiastical establishment, a creed, or rites, forms, and ceremonies, or any compulsion of conscience. I mean primitive Christianity in its simplicity as taught by Christ and his apostles".

Here an important question is involved_ What is the "primitive Christianity, in its simplicity, as taught

by Christ and his apostles"? The ortho-
dox believer says it is his system, and
the Unitarian that it is his. How then
is this question to be decided! Most
clearly by giving young men all
the instruction, in general knowledge,
which will furnish them with data
for solving it; and this appears to
have been the plan of Mr Girard.
The exclusion of Clergymen from the
management of the College, it is presumed
was from the ~~reflection~~ impression that they were
often overeagerly tenacious of their respective systems of
divinity, and might, if admitted to share
in its management introduce unfa-
vorable contensions, and retard the
progress of pure knowledge.

If Christianity is well founded
men of general knowledge will embrace
it; but if it lacks this basis, the be-
lief of those who have been taught
it infancy in their youth, would add nothing
to the evidence in its favor.

In summing up his remarks Mr.
Webster says. "The opinion of the whole
world comes that all the inhabitants of

religion and law are often insufficient to control the selfish and malignant passions of men. Any system of education therefore, which limits instruction to the arts and sciences, and rejects the aids of religion, in forming the characters of citizens, is essentially defective".

"In giving this view of my opinions, I am aware that I expose myself to the obloquy of modern philosophers. But this I disregard; for I have in support of my opinions, the experience of the whole civilized world, as well as the proofs presented by inspired truth! from the beginning to the end of the Bible! - that Book which the benevolent Creator has furnished for the express purpose of guiding human reason in the path of safety, and the only book which can remedy, or essentially mitigate, the evils of a licentious world".

"From a full conviction of these truths I firmly believe, that without material changes in the principles now prevalent in the United States; our republican government is is destined to be of short duration."

Dr Webster seems to be much alarm
but has he sufficient ground for his
fears? Is it true that heathenish princi
ples are gaining the ascendency, and
that true Christianity is disappearing
in the United States? If so, what can
be the cause. Our Colleges, Academies,
Common-schools and the desks of our
numerous Churches, are all under
the instruction & superintendance of Christian
people, in which our youth are,
and for a long time have been, in
structed in the Christian religion; yet,
according to Dr Webster, "without ma
terial changes in the principles
now prevalent", we are destined to
ruin. If this is really the case
may we not enquire, whether there
is not some defect in our modes of
education, as well as our systems of
religion?

In France at the commencement
of the revolution the Christian religion
was nearly banished from the nation
and to what was this owing?

Might it not have been from the corrupt system of Roman Catholics, which had disgusted the men of science, and who, supposing it to be the system of the Bible, threw the whole aside as useless? If then we are verging to the same point, may we not attribute it to something of a similar cause. But I am far from adopting Dr. Webster's sentiments, and believe his alarms groundless.

In his long and deep study of language and the compilation of his Dictionary may he not through inadvertence have run into the common error of estimating the religion of a people ~~by the bigotry and fanaticism found among them~~, by the fanatical zeal which embraces dogmas, that a more enlightened view of the scriptures has exploded?

In this suggestion we would not be understood, as intimating that the Dr. is defective in astute discrimination on subjects he has carefully investigated. We mean to say, that men eminent in one branch of knowledge, are sometimes found, who are very limited in others. A philologist is not necessarily a natural Philosopher nor the latter a metaphysician: But he who has extended his researches into the whole circle of science, must be much better prepared for discovering recondite truths, than he who has limited his studies to particular branches.

Dr. Cotton Mather was esteemed as the learned man of his day, and as a philologist we are not disposed to detract from his merits. But no enlightened man of the present day, can peruse his Magnalia without a sigh or a smile at his credulity; and when it is found that he was an advocate for the delusion of witch craft, and instrumental in inflicting the punishment of death on supposed witches, all enlightened men are compelled to condemn his burning zeal, to admit his want of judgement, and to lament that a mind so capable, should have been obfuscated by the worst fanaticism.

We would not, however, attempt to run a parallel between Dr Webster and Dr Matthew. We name the latter as an instance of great indiscretion in a learned man; and merely suggest that the former, by extending his researches into other branches of science which have not particularly engaged his attention, would divest himself of the fears he entertains respecting the region of the Stars, and lead him to the opinion that the pursuits of ~~science~~ the exact Sciences, will not create enemies to pure and unadulterated Christianity.

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3. Resuscitation of Free Masonry.

It is rumored in the Bridgewater Republican, that measures are in train, by the Grand Lodge, to revive its subordinate lodges throughout the State and that several meetings have already instituted in a neighboring town by some of the deluded Followers. and that one individual has been found silly enough to bow his neck to this blood-stained and iniquitous institution. The Editor hopes this is not so; and in his remarks advises Antimasons to have an eye upon those who take an active part in the reinstating the Lodges. Let a mark, says he be set upon them so that they may be known and held up to the scorn and ridicule of the world. The moment they undertake to raise its blood-stained banners, we can assure them, that we are here, with enough to back us, and shall pursue those who are known to take part in it, until they are consigned to that endless oblivion to which masonry itself is destined.

Whether this rumor is well founded I am in doubt, though I always believed there would be a renovation of the infernal order the moment they found the profligat and that they could do it safely, or without exciting alarm. But I never supposed it would revive precisely in the old form. The cut *throat oaths* which have become disgusting even to the members, will probably be laid aside, among the "*rubbish*", and others substituted; the mock death and resurrection of *Hiram Abiff*, and the disgusting ceremonies in the mark masters and royal arch degrees, particularly the *burning bush*, the *passage of the arch*, and *descent into the vault* in the latter, will probably be abolished. And why, it is asked, should the members wish to revive it under any form? Those who make this inquiry, still remain ignorant of its main design, which was to manage and direct the members, how to vote at important elections. Since the masonic murder of Morgan, this power has in a degree, ceased, or been changed. But the leaders in the higher degrees do not despair of a restoration of their power. Let the people watch them.

4. Agricultural Survey.

A Bill is now (February 28) before our Legislature which proposes to authorize the Gov. and Council to appoint some suitable and competent person to make an agricultural survey of the Commonwealth, and a summary of his survey to be furnished to the Gov. every six months, until the whole is completed. The salary to the Surveyor not to exceed 2500 dollars per annum.

A survey of this kind would no doubt, be useful for the agricultural interest, if made by an ingenious philosopher, who has a taste for agriculture; but much time would be required to complete the work. England, France & some other nations, have made these surveys but our Legislature seem to forget that the expense attending them may be beyond the ability of *little Massachusetts*. We have made a Geological, and are now making a Trigonometrical survey, which ~~was~~ has and will be attended with considerable expense, perhaps, greater than our means, or beyond the benefits which may result from them. With a larger extent of territory, and population like ~~than~~ New-York, we might better afford the cost. —

One great obstruction to enterprises of this kind in Massachusetts, is the great and unnecessary expense ~~cost~~ of our Legislature, composed of about 600 members, amounting to more than 100.000 dollars per annum. If New York with her 128 representatives is able to embark in great works for the public benefit, it is no example for us to follow. When our representation shall be reduced in proportion to theirs, we may think of public works of a similar character; but even then, on a much less scale. Limitation of expenses is not less important for small States, than for individuals of small property. When we shall duly curtail our public expenses we may undertake works for the public; but let us not forget the sound maxim, that small means must be limited to small measures.

In the Report of the Committee who presented the bill, they say "The State of New-York with a noble liberality, has appropriated 10000 dollars in a single year, in the dissemination of agricultural knowledge among the people. Shall Massachusetts, which has been wont to take the lead in patriotic and literary enterprises be distanced in the course"?

The Committee should have remembered that Massachusetts has not been sparing in the appropriation of money for the encouragement of agricultural improvements. By looking at our treasury Books, they would find large items of this kind allowed to our agricultural societies it is believed much beyond those of the State of New-York, when compared with our means. Let us then not be deceived by such ebullitions of zeal, calculated only for the unthinking. We have too much of this-

Memoranda.

My Son Arthur W. Hoyt, at Richmond Virginia February 23 informs that he shall leave that place for St. Louis in Missouri, where he is engaged in his business, whether on a Rail Road or a Canal, he has not informed; and intimates that he may return to the North in the summer.

St Louis is said to be a town of some note, on the west bank of the Mississippi, 18 miles by water, below the junction of the Missouri, in Lat. 38°36; the town elevated and healthy, containing, in 1830 of all colors, 6694 inhabitants. In 1818 one hundred houses were said to be added to the place, and 3 or 4 Gazettes are printed there. Distance from Pittsburgh to mouth of Ohio, according to Dr Drake, 949 miles; thence to St. Louis 176 miles = 1125 miles. From Washington 856 miles I suppose on a right line. The Long. is laid down at 89°–36 west from Greenwich. Washington at 77 - 01 - 48 W

Diff = 12 - 34 - 12

Mr Hogg who

is now at Danville, and who saw Arthur at Richmond, before he left that place, informs me that he is engaged by the Gov. of Illinois, to construct a Rail way, of 8 or 10 miles in that State, nearly opposite to St. Louis; the road intended for the conveyance of Coal from a rich bed to the Mississippi

To a native of New England the Mississippi must strike the eye as unique object; its length from its source, including its windings, is estimated at about 3000 miles and of various width. At the mouth of the Missouri it is said to 1½ miles, but at St Louis 3/4 only, and that it generally freezes over in the month of December; of course the weather in the winter must be severe

The opinion heretofore entertained that in corresponding latitudes the temperature is higher in the Mississippi valley than between the mountains and the Atlantic, is by latest travellers supposed erroneous; but this

I think is not certainly proved, though seems to be evidence from thermometrical observations. See art. U.S. 18 vol. Ed. Encyclopaedia +

Situated as St Louis is, near the centre of the valley of the Mississippi and near the mouth of the Missouri, it must in time become a great city, and perhaps ultimately the seat of Government for the United States though other places on the River may check its progress. By the aid of Steam boats it has an easy intercourse with New Orleans, 1200 miles (by the River) below; and several of these boats are constantly plying between the two places. Whether it will prove a healthy situation for Northern people, remains to be shown.

A spirit of adventure and enterprize seems to be natural to young men, and perhaps it is well that it is so. But it sometimes happens that their projects are not founded on prudence, & their expectations are always sanguine. Our positive attachment may be too strong an attachment to the place of our birth which keeps us from seeing great advantages.

+ See also Observation on the Winters of the West. Silliman's Journal 1841. p. 274

were I to emigrate from New England to a new country, I know of no part of the United States I should prefer to that on the Mississippi about the Latitude of St. Louis in Missouri; and which side of the River is preferable I am not certain. The State of Illinois opposite to St Louis is the most settled part of that State ~~of that state~~, and the Navigation of the Mississippi affords great facilities for communication with all parts of the western country. But as in all new Countries, the first settlers will be liable to fevers, until ~~they are~~ well cultivated; and this was the case with the early settlers on the Connecticut in Massachusetts, as well as the western part of the State of New-york, which is now deemed healthy. A position south of the State of ~~S~~ Missouri is by no means advisable, for a new England man, unless it be in the high counties of North and South Carolina, which are said to be as salubrious as the northern States.

An

The following is the population of several Counties in Missouri & Illinois near the Mississippi, according to the census of 1830.

County of St Louis in Missouri	14 907
—— Morgan in Illinois ——	12 709
—— Greene in do ——	7 664
—— Madison in do	6 229
—— St Clair in do ——	7 092
—— Monroe in do ——	2 119
Randolph in do —	4 436

The 4 last Counties are on the Mississippi, opposite or ~~below~~ above St Louis. Morgan and Green, bound west on the Illinois River, having Pike and Calhoun on the west, which extend to the Mississippi, with a population of 2393 and 1090. At this time probably the population of all the counties is considerably increased.

Sangamon County, on a River of that name, east of Morgan, contained 12,960 inhabitants in 1830, and was then the most populous of any in the State of Ill. The northern Counties had but few inhabitants. Whole population of State 157,575 of whom 746 are Slaves.

6 Termination of Jacksons Administration.

This day, March 4th, President Jackson retires from his office and is reduced to a level with his fellow citizens. He retires with ~~the~~ many adherents among the people, it is true; yet a respectable number of respectable men most sincerely rejoice at his political exit. His administration has been boisterous and has created violent parties throughout the United States. If his intentions have been good we must excuse him ~~[illegible]~~; but if otherwise, he as well as the people, may feel their effects. We may however excuse his judgment if he has designed no evil. For ourselves we think his administration has been a mixture of good and evil; but we never thought him to be the man to be placed at the head of our government. In his various measures he has evinced too much obstinacy for a President of a free people. His projects, let them be what they might have been pursued with a pertinacity unbecoming ~~in~~ a sound political man; and with the chain of State he has left the country in such confusion, from which it may not recover in a short time. We do not however condemn his whole administration, for we think he has, in some instances, pursued a judicious course; but we regret that this has not been more frequent. Mr Van Buren, we trust, will pursue a different course, and restore harmony among the people. He may make himself popular with the contending parties, by pursuing a moderate course; but if he neglects this ~~course~~, he can ~~can~~ hardly deserve the name of a wise man, or that of a patriot.

The examples and precepts of Washington are before him, and if he follows them he cannot be at a loss in the path of his duty. These like the propositions of Euclid for the geometer, will be safe guides. Let him follow them & prove a blessing to his country.

7 Geological Survey.

Another Geological Survey of Massachusetts is proposed by a Committee of the Legislature.

One would suppose that all that is now ascertained in regard to geology of the State, was included in Professor Hitchcock's Report; but the committee are of a different opinion, and seem to think that Report insufficient.

The remarks we have made under *Agricultural Survey*, (page 18) will apply to this project. viz the great and unnecessary expense of the Government of this *little State* is a complete bar to enterprises of this sort.

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8 *Geography* and History of the Western *States*, or the Mississippi Valley. 2 Vol. 8vo (Printed at Cincinnati 1828) By Timothy Flint.

Mr Flint calls this a *Condensed* work, but we can hardly consider it in that light when we enumerate 1112 pages of common sized octavo.

This in fact, the most full and we believe, the most authentic work that has been published of the western States. The author is a resident of Ohio, and has made extensive tours through the valley of the Mississippi, and appears to be a gentleman of science well fitted for his undertaking. In general his descriptions are handsome, well written and seem to bear the marks of accuracy; and for the emigrant to that Country, the work is of the utmost importance. We give a few extracts

View from the bluffs, on the Mississippi, opposite to the mouth of Missouri. "At this place the American Bottom terminates and the bluffs come into the River. The bluffs bound the eastern bank of the river thence to the mouth of the Illinois. From these bluffs we contemplate one of the most impressive and beautiful landscapes in the world. * The eye traces a long distance of the outline of the Missouri valley, bounded on either side with an indistinct

* On the opposite side the mighty Missouri is seen bringing its turbid & sweeping mass of waters at right angles to the Mississippi, &c.

and blue line of hills. Above it is the vast and most beautiful Mamelle prairie, dotted with green islands of wood, and skirted at the farthest here of the eye with hills and forests. Above you, on the same shore, is the valley of the Illinois, itself bounded by hoary and magnificent bluffs of a peculiar character. The river brings in its creeping waters by a deep bed, that seems almost as straight as a canal. You have in view the valleys and bluffs of two noble streams, that join their waters to the Mississippi. You see the Mississippi changed to a turbid and sweeping stream, with jagged and indented banks below you. You see its calm and placid waters above the Missouri. On the opposite prairie there are level meadows, wheat fields, corn fields, smokes ascending from houses and cabins, vast flocks of domestic cattle, — distinct indications of agriculture and improvements blended with the grand features of nature. The clumps of trees, lakes, ponds and flocks of sea fowl, wheeling their flight over them; in short what ever of grandeur, or beauty, nature can furnish to soothe, and to enrapture."

The American Bottom mentioned above is described as follows.

"This bottom commencing not far below Kaskaskia, and extending along the eastern shore of the Mississippi for a distance of 80 miles, terminating a little distance below the point, opposite the mouth of Missouri, is from 3 to 6 miles wide, and is divided into two belts. The first, bordering the Mississippi, is chiefly timbered bottom. The next belt, reaching to the foot of the perpendicular bluffs, is prairie of the richest quality, covered, in the season of vegetation, with grass and flowers. Parts of this tract have been in cultivation with the exhausting crop of maize 100 years, without producing apparently the slightest exhaustion of the soil. No description will convey an adequate idea of the power of vegetation, and the rank luxuriance with which it operates at the root, along this plain of exhaustless fertility. Unhappily, here, as almost universally nature has compensated the prodigality of her gifts on the one hand, by counterbalancing disadvantages on the other. Wherever the gifts of nature are offered with so little labor and in such abundance, as here, men will be found. But in the autumn, *you will enter but few houses in the whole distance, where some of the members of the family are not sick.*

Bluffs on the Mississippi.

Between the mouth of the Ohio and St Louis on the west side of the River, the bluffs are generally near it, seldom diverging from it more than two miles. They are for the most part, perpendicular masses of lime stone; sometimes shooting up into towers & pinnacles, presenting, at a distance the aspect of the battlements and towers of an ancient city; sometimes rising 200 & 300 feet above the level of the river On the eastern side, in this distance, the bluffs diverge to a considerable distance from the river, and bound the American bottom, leaving an alluvial belt. The bluffs mark the boundary between the belt and the hills. They are as high and perpendicular as the bluffs on the opposite side of the river

Most notice towns near the east bank of the Mississippi, in Illinois, and opposite to the country about St. Louis.

Edwardsville, on the Cahokia Creek 20 m. NE from St Louis, a village of considerable consequence; until within a few years the seat of government.

Belleville, in the centre of Turkey Hill settlement, 18 m SE of St Louis, and a few ms E of the American bottom - a flourishing village in the midst of a compact settlement, and most excellent lands.

Alton, a new village a little above the mouth of Missouri. ~~Two~~ 4 years from its commencement it contained 100 houses and a respectable boarding school. Many

of the people immigrants from N york
from the favourableness of its position &
~~even from~~ the apparent healthiness
~~of its situation~~, it bids fair to become
a town of consequence.

Carlisle situated on the W. bank of
the Kaskaskia. on the great road from
Shawneetown to St Louis. and from
Cincinnati to St Louis. Boats of burthen,
in good stages of water, ascend the river
to this place - few places in the state
more central to the resources of the
Country.

Cahokia, on the creek of that name,
is situated in the American bottom, a
few miles below St Louis. It is one of
the most ancient villages in the
Country - its inhabitants chiefly
French - of considerable extent.

Prairie du Rocher. 12 m above
Kaskaskia - a french village in the American
bottom, situated near a most beautiful
lime bluff.

Kaskaskia, is situated on an extensive
plain not far from the commencement
of the American bottom, 11 miles

from the mouth of the river, on which it stands, and 6 miles from the nearest point of the Mississippi — one of the first establishments made by the French in the valley of the Mis^{pi} and dates back farther than Philadelphia It was once a place of great importance containing 7000 inhabitants. At present it numbers 160 houses and 1,000 inhabitants. A more beautiful situation for a town can hardly be imagined — in the centre of a beautiful and gently sloping basin, on a fine navigable stream, and in the midst of of a country, proverbial for its fertility. It is the seat of Justice for the County of Randolph) — has a bank, a printing office, a catholic church, and land office.

Vandalia, the present metropolis of the State; pleasantly situated on a high bank of the Kaskaskia river, in the centre of a rich and thriving country. It has been founded but a few years. Many handsome brick buildings have arisen. Recently gazette is issued, and it exhibits in many respects, the aspect of a town, and has more than 50 houses.

(Albion, situated near Bon Pas Creek, and is the centre of what is called the marine settlement, formed by M Birkbeck, Flower and other English immigrants. There are many wealthy farmers in the vicinity, that were once mariners. This place is in Edwards County, on the dividing ridge between little and great Wabash, in the east part of the State)

St Phillippe - In the American Bottom, 45m. below Cohokia, a pleasant old french village (Brown's Western Gazetteer)

At Cahokia, Flint says, is the most numerous group of mounds we have seen. There is said to be 200 in all; - the largest on the Cahokia creek. Its form is that of a parallelogram; its circumference is given at 800 yards, and its height at 90 feet. There are also interesting mounds a little N of St Louis - like mounds are stacks. One called the fulling grueler is generally pointed out, as a great curiosity.

Face of the Country in Illinois.

Excepting Louisiana & Delaware, Illinois is the most level State in the Union. The far greater portion of the State is either vast plains or barrens, but gently rolling. We may travel on the vast prairies for days without encountering an elevation worthy to be called a hill. One vast prairie spreads from the shores of the Mississippi to Lake Michigan; they are divided into wet and dry. The wet seem to have been timbered morasses, containing in many instances, peat and other fossil indications, with logs and the bones of animals, some feet below the surface. The alluvial prairies are high and dry, of a rich black loam and exceedingly fertile soil; and covered with a coarse grass of incredible size, chequered with groves of sparse trees.

The vast extent of level plains in this country is an injury to it; there is often not sufficient inclination to carry off the water, that falls in rains. Even the high prairies, when they happen to be of a stiff soil, are too wet for cultivation. This land discharges its waters by evaporation, rendered still more noxious by the vast quantities of vegetation which have been steeping in them. Hence it happens that these beautiful countries are sometimes sickly, where every thing to the eye, would only promise health, as well as abu ance.

From Cincinnati to St Louis the great road passes through the State in its whole width. More than 100 ms. of it is high, dry & rich prairie; in all the distance in Illinois the margins of the streams are almost the only places, where timbered land is found; and the streams have only narrow skirts of wood. The Grand Prairie has a black friable, and sandy soil or loam, from 2 to 5 feet;

the next stratum is red clay, mixed with fine sand from 5 to 10 feet; the third stratum, a hard blue clay of a beautiful appearance, and greasy feeling, mixed with pebbles, & when exposed to the air emitting a foetid smell. In this stratum, the water of the wells is found; which is of course, both disagreeable & unhealthy The soil is of the first quality. In the season of flowers the eye and all the senses receive the highest gratification. In time of strawberries thousands of acres are reddened with them; and they are of the finest quality. But this country which strikes the eye so delightfully, and where millions of Acres invite the plough, want timber for building, fencing and fuel. It wants water; and in too many instances the inhabitants want health.

Between Carlisle & St Louis, an extent of about 50 ms. we meet with woods, streams, hills, lime stone ledges, and a rolling country; either we crop an occasional prairie quite to the American bottom. On the north of the road, and between it and the Illinois, the surface is generally more irregular. Considerable portion of the country may be termed broken, and the hills abound in stone coal. The bluffs skirting along the American bottom, in many places have perpendicular front of lime stone 300 feet high.

Though the country is very fascinating to the eye of the traveller, it is by no means the most eligible situation for settlers. Mr Flint thinks many of the evils to which it is subject, may be remedied by the introduction of cultivation. Forests, he says, may soon be raised upon the prairies; coal and peat may be discovered for fuel; Hedges and ditches may fence it; and pure water, may be found, by carrying the wells below the stratum of earth, that is supposed to impart the sulphureous and disagreeable taste which the water possesses. But to me it appears doubtful whether a prairie country will, under any circumstances, prove healthy, unless where they are very dry, and inclined planes give current ~~course~~ to the waters that fall in rains.

Throughout the northwestern states, *ancient works*, in many instances of a surprising magnitude, of the ancient inhabitants are found; they resemble fortifications, accompanied with large mounds of earth. In the Scioto country in Ohio, they are numerous, and indicate that a people once inhabited the county, much more advanced in the arts than the present Indians. In some instances stone walls have been found of great extent, though without the marks of the hammer or chisel; and bricks similar to ours, are said to be found. But among the implements discovered none of iron have been seen. Dr Drake mentions implements of *copper* found in a mound at Cincinnati; and this metal was found among the Mexican Indians.

42. Face of the Country of Missouri.

A large extent in the S.E. angle is low, swampy, full of lakes, & in many places subject to inundations.

The best portion and most inhabited parts of the State are between the Missouri and Mississippi. It contains a surface delightfully rolling; & in no part of the globe is there greater extents which are more easily traversed by carriages, of any description, where there are no roads.

Soil This state contains a greater portion of sand than the country on the Ohio, and is more loamy and friable and less stiff. Clayey soils are found; but they are small in quantity. The roads are generally dry, as the falling rain is absorbed by the soil. The rich uplands are of a darkish grey color; excepting about the lead mines; where it is reddish like Spanish brown. The poorer uplands have white oak, and a small shrubby species called pin oak, where the soil is of a light yellowish color

There are
Here are tracts of fine ~~[illegible]~~ timbered country

one 15 or 20 miles extent, south of the mine country; the other Boons lick settlement; and smaller extents of this land over all the state. In a state of nature it strikes the eye agreeably. The surface rolls gently - almost imperceptibly. It has the same trees and shrubs and grand vegetation that designate the rich alluvions; and at the same time, it has the diversified surface and the abundance of health, and springs of water that are naturally connected with the notion of uplands. They are timbered with the same trees which the alluvions bear. Like those, they are surmounted with grape vines and free from under brush. The graceful pawpaw, the persimmon & wild cherry trees, all denoting rich soils, abound, and are nearly as fertile as the bottoms of the Missouri or Mississippi.

The prairies are generally level & of an intermediate character between the richer & poorer lands. Alluvial prairies, uniformly rich and nearly as fertile as bottoms. Some of the upland prairies are rich. But these are scarcely any lands in the State, sufficiently level for cultivation, that have not fertility enough to bring good crops of corn without manure; and in many instances the poorer lands are better for wheat than the richer. The bottoms of all the water courses are rich; those of the Missouri are generally loamy, with a large portion of sand. But even where the proportion of sand seems to be in excess, the soil is of the richest character. Intermixed with the glaize or earth of a greasy & adhesive feeling is a considerable proportion of marle or dissolved lime, which communicates to the soil, compounded of vegetable matter, an astonishing fertility. The lands on the upper Mississippi bottom are blacker, more clayey, less marly & sandy. The bottoms of the smaller streams partake of the character of the regions, through which they flow. On the whole the good lands have generally a great degree of fertility. The soils from the bottoms of the deepest wells, appear no less fertile than that on the surface.

On the richer prairies & bottoms, tall and coarse grass, & weeds resembling hemp rise often to a thickness, size and hight, as almost to make it impossible to travel on horseback. The leaves of the trees & shrubs, indicate the prolific vigor & power of nature.

The upper Mississippi is skirted with a prairie, commencing about 10 m. above the mouth of Missouri and extending along the west bank beyond m. with an average width of 4 & 5 m. The uplands are also extremely rich; but interspersed with many flint knobs often in regular cones, 200 to 300 feet high. In the S.W. part of the State are tracts of poor lands, covered with yellow pine & bald rocky hills, & even moving sands.

Productions. Wheat 30 to 40 bushels the acre. Rye barley & oats succeed well. Corn, from 50 to 75 bushels the acre, sometimes 100 is raised on the same [illegible] ground. Crops suffer by droughts, tho sometimes severe. Hemp is raised in good quantities and no better country for hemp. Tc

Tobacco is good and abundant
Cotton is raised in the warm prairies back of the Mackinaw. Sweet & Irish potatoes succeed. This behind the state alone has lands, already fit for the plough, sufficient to produce wheat enough for whole nations.

Wheat Crops

Prairies of hundreds & thousands of acres of first rate wheat lands, covered with grass, and perfectly free from shrubs & bushes, invite the plough; and if the country were cultivated to a proper extent, it might be the granary of the world.

A Supply for the world

Turnips and bulbous roots grow to a great size; and pumpkins, squashes and melons are no where in greater abundance

Prairie grass cut before it has seeded, would be a fodder equally valuable, & perhaps superior to timothy.

Above all countries, this is the country of flowers. In the season of flowers every prairie is an immense flower garden of different hues, as peach blossom – next a deeper red then the yellow and last, in autumn a brilliant goldhue.

Crabapple trees, paw paws and persimmons are abundant. Wild hops cover the extent of the whole prairie. Pecans, hazlenuts, walnuts of different kinds of hickory are found in great quantities. The June grape ripen in that month – small sweet & uncommon. The summer grape, small purple and tolerably rich, in the month of October; when carefully dried in the sun, are not much inferior to raisins. The winter grape is small and sour; by winter frosts becomes tolerably pleasant.

All the fruits of the northern and middle states thrive here; the apple tree attains its utmost development; the tree 3 years from transplanting of the size of a man's arm loading itself with fruit. Peach trees break down from the weight of its fruit. Pear trees, apricots & nectarines prosper. This seems to be the native country of fruit trees. Apples are already abundant in older settlements - Barley yields a fine crop, and when converted to beer and porter, may furnish a good substitute for whiskey, the murder of soul and body in new countries.

The mulberry is common in the woods and may be applied to the raising of silkworms & silk. The heats of the summer and dryness of the atmosphere peculiarly fit the soil for the cultivation of medicinal plants.

Wild Animals Bears, wolves and panthers are as common as in the southern regions. Buffaloes & Elks are only found in the prairies beyond the limits of the State. Deer are frequently seen from 4 to 20 in a drove even in the immediate vicinity of the most populous villages. Rattle snakes, and copper heads, and ground vipers are found in the unsettled regions, near the knobs and bay hills. The small rattle snake called massauges live in great numbers in particular places on the prairies.

The hawks, eagles & ravens, [illegible]

the spring and autumn, are the migrating season, are literally covered with swans, pelicans, cranes, geese, brants and ducks, of all the tribes & varieties. The birds of the quail kind or partridges, are numerous as also the prairie hen somewhat larger than the domestic hen. In the autumn of some seasons they are seen hovering over the corn fields, in flocks of hundreds. Turtle doves are numerous as in some seasons are wild pigeons. Singing birds are not so common as in the country farther south, or in the more settled regions of the north; but a variety are found here. The beautiful paroquet frequents the sycamore bottoms, and does much injury to the orchard and garden fruits.

Mr Flint compares the site of St Louis to that of Albany in N York. The ascent to the higher bank is not precipitous, & beyond this an extensive plain opens to view, covered with bushes & shrub oaks; beyond which is a naked prairie; the timber for [illegible] is cut away

Such ~~ie~~ is the condensed account from Flint's description of Missouri, and taking it alone, we should suppose the country ~~like~~ a paradise. But there are serious draw backs in the case. The climate is rather unhealthy for northern people before they become acclimated; more fevers prevail than in the northern regions, though some other diseases are more rare; but on the whole, Flint thinks it as healthy as our climate. But of this we entertain some doubts. Few new countries are as healthy as older ones in the same latitude.

As soon as the Country becomes thoroughly cultivated and good water can be obtained, which however may be difficult in the Prairies, it will probably be healthy; and a most agreeable climate; alike free from the hot seasons of the southern states, and the long and cold winters of the northern.

Missouri River has a course of between 400 & 500 miles in the State. Prairies are scarcely seen on the banks within the distance of the first 400 miles of its course. It is heavily timbered and yet from the softness of the wood, easily cleared. The water, though uncommonly turbid with a whitish earth, soon and easily settles, and is then remarkably pure pleasant and healthy. Its bottoms are considerably settled for a distance of 40 miles above its mouth. Chariton is the highest compact settlement; but the largest & most populous in the State is Boone's licks.

St Charles, on the Missouri, is a pleasant village of about 1200 inhabitants. 20 miles above the mouth of the river, and the same distance N.W. of St Louis. Back of the village is a large extent of level country, covered with hazle copses, yielding abundance of wild hops, grapes and prairie plums. – At 2 miles distance below the town, commences the beautiful point prairie, and we know of no place in the western country, that has a more interesting one adjoining it, than this village. About one third of the inhabitants are French –

Profund

Proposed Canal, or Rail Road, in Illino

At a meeting of the Citizens of Rock Islan County, in the town of Stevenson, on the 7th of November 1836, a committee of six was selected to draught a memorial to the General Assembly of Illinois praying the passage of a Law for constructin a canal or rail road, commencing at Hennepin on the Illinois River, at or near the termination of the Illinois Canal from Chicago, and thence pursuin the nearest and best practicable route to Rock Island County, ending at that place, or on the eastern bank of the Mississippi. The route is represented as fine and generally level, not much elevated or depressed, but at points gently undulating; and the length, not probably exceeding 70 to 75 miles. The design is to transport merchandize from the Mississippi directly to Chicago, and thence by the Lakes, and New York canal to Albany &c. John W Spencer was President of the meeting. The Committe D.G. Garnsey, Joseph Conway, John Mil er, Wm Pendleton, Henry Powers, Joel Wells jr &

Milk Sickness.

In Illinois and Missouri, in the extensive and rich bottoms, the Cows are subject to a terrible and inexplicable, at least as yet, unexplained disease called Milk sickness. It occurs most frequently in Autumn, about that period when the first severe frosts happen. From this circumstance, and the fact, that the cattle are then driven by necessity to pasture on succulent vines and herbage of the forest, that remain unhurt by the frost, it is generally supposed to be occasioned by the eating some poisonous vegetable. The animal, becomes apparently weak, in the limbs; can travel but a little distance without falling; seems languid and stupid, and so continues to droop, until it dies. At this time, under the influence of this sickness, the milk of cows taken in any quantity, seems to produce the same disease in men, or whatever animals swallow the milk. The persons are subject to extreme nausea, faintness, vertigo, restlessness and death. The only precaution

taken

taken by farmers, is to pen their cattle at the season, and to be very cautious in the use of the milk. —

On a brief and careful perusal of Flint's Geography, I am of opinion that the western is a fine country & will become an important part of the United States. But in its early stage it is subject to ~~many~~ some serious inconveniences: among which are its fevers and scarcity of good water. In the prairie countries, there may soon be a want of timber for fuel, fencing and building; but as fossil coal is abundant in many places, fuel may not be much wanted; and hedges and ditching may be substituted for timber fences. In building, stone and brick will be good substitutes, and these will, at length be the wooden in New England. But were it not for the severity of our winters in the Connecticut valley, I should think it preferable to that of the Mississippi. Pulmonic and other cold weather diseases may be more frequent in the former than the latter. But on the whole it is believed that no part of the United States is more salubrious than the Continental valley. Men of little property and large families of male children may find it for their interest to migrate to the western regions; where lands may be obtained at a low rate; and such families rendered independent by industry. But for the independent farmer here, the inducements to migrate to the west, are by no means forcible. If he is industrious and economical here, he may be happy; and without these he would be unhappy there

Industrious & economical single men, of temperate habits, without property here, may also find it for their interest to migrate to the west; but without these qualifications, it is no consequence where they reside; for they would remain poor and miserable in the garden of Eden. In the western country they might become hunters and expert in the use of the rifle, but in no place respectable & useful citizens.

9 Project of Greenfield for obtaining possess of the North part of Deerfield.

See page 37 of our No. 3.

During the session of the Legislature of 1836 a petition was presented praying that the part of Deerfield lying north of Deerfield River and Sheldon brook might be set off to Greenfield. The petition though signed by people living on the tract, and others owning land on it, we say was a project of Greenfield, or rather a party in that town who feel power and forget right; for many honest people there were opposed to the unjust plan.

A viewing Committee was appointed who, after viewing the land, reported in favor of the petition. In the Genl Court the subject was referred to the Committee on towns who after a hearing of the case, again reported in favor of the petition. Under these circumstances Deerfield supposed their case was rather desperate; but the town determined to make all possible legal opposition to so unjust a measure. In February a bill was brought forw in the Legislature for setting off the land, and after much debate in the house was rejected by a majority of 42.

A plain statement of facts it seems convinced a majority of the house that the petition was got up by an overbearing party in Greenfield, and they, and not the petitioners, were the supporters of the project. Their brow beating system however, had not the desired effect; and a respectable majority, determined that a scheme so unjustifiable, was not to be carried by chicane. We hope the gentlemen who hover about the Court house of Franklin, will learn one lesson, viz that although they govern the County, they cannot govern the Commonwealth; and that "pride and falsehood, however fortified by time, and strengthened by names of dignity and wealth, cannot withstand the humble, and unaided assault of incident truth".

The defeat of the gentlemen will be most mortifying, for they will leave no stone unturned to effect their purpose.

10 Recipe for making great Men.

The following is found to be successful in these days, particularly in our Legislature. Soon after the Court assembles and an opportunity has been given for a display of legal loquacity, generally by young gentlemen who have taken a first flight at the bar, let some obsequious young man, if possible one who has delivered an address on temperance or school education in his village, some has a little of the cacoethes scribendi, be selected who might come to the relief of his colleague, puffing, extolling the wonderful powers of certain "leading members" of the several counties, neglecting to notice all who have less skill at chattering, however able they may be in legislating; at the same time hint at the radicalism of those opposed to his dictators. This appears now to have a wonderful effect. And, although the new fledged + geniuses they endeavour to place on the pinnacle, are ignorant of the whole circle of sciences other than their limited professions, they are undoubtedly the first. Thus we

+ are likely to be [illegible] by great men. Miserabile dictu!

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March 15th 1837

Appendix.

Friday March 17th 1837. Thursday our people assembled at Lawrence's Tavern, to express their joy at the defeat of the people of Greenfield in their scheme of securing the ancient town of Deerfield and enjoying possession of the northern part. In the morning 42 guns were fired, in honor of the majority in our favor in the house of representatives; And at 2 o'clock P.M. about 100 persons partook of a fine dinner at Mr Lawrence's. Spirited Resolutions were unanimously ~~past~~ adopted and a great number of sentiments given at meat and afterwards. At evening a superb bon-fire blazed in the

the elevated peak of our mountain, and a rarified Baloon took its flight to the upper regions. At no time have I seen a more unanimous and spirited expression of feeling than on this occasion. The whole closed without the least confusion.

We have called this attempt a Greenfield measure, in defiance of all right, or the least courtesy due from one neighbouring town to another; but it should be known that the people residing in the meadows of that town were opposed to the measure, and remonstrated against it, like honorable and peaceful men. The fact is the project was got up by a few leading men residing about the Court House, who feel power and forget right. It is hoped the result will teach them that the rights of the people are not to be thus trifled with; and that if they can govern the County they cannot govern the State. The decision of the house is important to the people of the State as well as to ourselves; and proves that plain truth is not to be thrust out of sight by sophistry however artfully applied.

A.

It is to be regretted that cases of this kind should occur, as they tend to interrupt the harmony and good feelings which ought to exist in community. But when a few men undertake to rule, in a republic, it is proper that they should receive the indignant frowns of the people, and be brought down to their proper level. A different course would be destructive of republican rights.

One fact in regard to this measure should be borne in mind. It was, indeed, attempted under the color of petitioners, residing on, or who owned land in the territory; but these petitioners generally abandoned the project, and the responsible agents when any occurred, were defrauded by the town of Greenfield, and the representatives were chosen, for 1837, with a view to carrying the project into success. Of this we have incontestable proof, by a handbill they very foolishly published at the time of the election of representatives, which fell into our hands.

Books Out March 1- 1837

X Worthington History of Durham — Jon^a. Atherton
X Cavallo Philosophy, 2^d vol to Mr Bartlett —
X History of Berkshire — Dr. S.W. Williams
X Juvenile Instruction — Mr Aldrich.
all returned.

Note

In modern Geography it is common to use the terms Basin and Valley. Basin denotes the entire space drained by a river: Valley the space watered by a a secondary or confluent stream. Thus the Mississippi basin includes all the country on the river, and its confluent streams; and the valleys of Missouri Illinois, Ohio and other confluents make up the basin.

The term bottom is used to denote the lower lands on Rivers, which in New-England, are call meadows: The higher lands, when open, are called prairies and are of two kinds, wet & dry. All are called alluvion. The elevations ~~from~~ on the margin of the bottoms, are called bluffs with us hills.